

Re: S.B. 506 An Act Concerning the Designation of Drive-Only Licenses for the Purpose of Voter Registration

I originally contacted Representative Tony Guglielmo about this issue on 11/18/2014. Prior to the November elections the Secretary of State was advertising the on-line voter registration. At the same time North Carolina was grappling with the fact that some DACA eligible aliens had registered to vote through the state Motor Voter process when they received driver's licenses and had actually voted in the elections (contrary to Federal Law). Although I've been registered to vote since I was first eligible, I was curious about how the on-line voter registration process would work, so I visited the website and went through the process without submitting my registration. This is when I became concerned that there were no safeguards in place to prevent people without legal status from registering either through the on-line or motor voter process.

When I presented this concern to Rep. Guglielmo he kindly had this researched and discovered that in fact there were no safeguards put in place by the legislature at the time that they enacted State Statute 14-36m. There was no way for local registrars to determine if a voter who had registered on-line or through motor voter process was in fact legally entitled to vote. The fact that the drive-only license cannot be used for identification is moot since in the State of Ct once you are registered to vote you are only requested to show an ID and a photo ID is not required. If you do not have an ID you are required to provide your name, date of birth and sign under penalty of making a false statement. These are not strict requirements, and if someone has registered under false pretenses they would probably not have any problems signing this type of statement.

While some say that voter fraud is rare and this probably won't happen, it's my feeling that in order to protect the integrity of the voter registration system and to avoid the type of incident that happened in North Carolina, the state should assign a different numbering system or place a letter before the number on this type of license. In this way we can be assured that only those who are eligible to vote are doing so.

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